

FOSSIL INSECTA FROM CAINOZOIC RESIN
AT ALLENDALE, VICTORIA

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Family PSELAPHIDAE

Eupines setifera n.sp.

Dark castaneous; legs, palpi and antennae reddish-castaneous, with the club of the antennae darker than the other segments.

Head subquadrate, depressed in front, with two large interocular foveae placed close to the eyes, where there are also a few short setae. Antennae with first segment a little longer than usual; second cylindrical, thinner and shorter than first; third obconic, thinner but nearly as long as second; fourth to eighth moniliform; ninth transverse, much wider than eighth; tenth larger, trapezoidal; eleventh largest, irregularly ovate-truncate; sparsely setose. Prothorax subcordiform, widest at apical fourth, where there are three long setae on each side. Elytra a little longer than usual, sutural striae well defined; shoulders rounded off and with one long seta and a few punctures on each. Abdomen convex; first segment very long, about as long as following segments combined; impunctate; flattened but not excavate on ventral surface. Under surface of head with one distinct carina. Metasternum long, strongly convex in middle, lightly excavate posteriorly. Under surface with short and rather sparse pubescence. Legs a little longer than usual; without spines; front tibiae lightly angulate towards apex. Length, 1.60 mm. (circa).

This species agrees in all essential characters with typical members of the genus, but differs from them in having the elytra and first abdominal segment a little longer and from all described species by the long (fixed) setae on prothorax and elytra.

The excavation of the sternum is not as strong as in most males and the flattening of the abdomen is only very slight, so that it is difficult to be certain of the sex of the type, but I believe that it is a male.

Type in Geology Department, University of Melbourne, Reg. No. 2493.

Family SCYDMAENIDAE

There was a fairly large sized species (circa 3 mm.) belonging to this family, but as its prothorax is missing it cannot be described.

Having widely separated hind coxae, with three segmented labial palpi and the two mandibles alike, would place it in the genus *Megalederus* in the table of Australian genera given by Rev. R. L. King, but the species of that genus are all very small.

Family TENEBRIONIDAE

Platycilibe brevis Cart.

A fairly well preserved specimen of this species, though much bleached, was found embedded in the resin. The species lives in old rotting logs and is naturally black, or almost so, but I have found old dead specimens in a log that had bleached

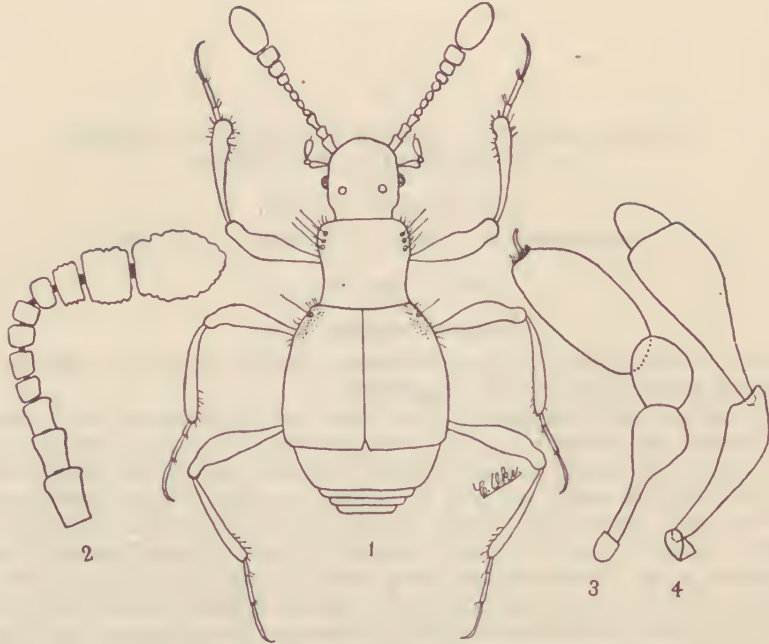


FIG. 1.—1. *Eupines scitifera* n.sp.
 2. Antenna from the side.
 3. Maxillary palpus.
 4. Maxillary palpus of the Scydmaenid.

to a pale yellow and this one is in that condition. The species has been taken in the Gippsland Hills in Victoria, and on Mt. Wilson and Mt. Royal in New South Wales.

Family CURCULIONIDAE

Subfamily CRYPTOCORRHYNCHINAE

A moderate sized specimen belonging to this subfamily was also obtained. It is densely clothed with large, variegated scales, which still retain their colour, but I cannot match it with any weevil known to me. Unfortunately its antennae and tarsi are missing, so that it cannot be further dealt with now.

Order HYMENOPTERA

Family FORMICIDAE

Ponera scitula Clark

A specimen of this species in fairly good condition.

Iridomyrmex sp?

A specimen of a small blackish species of this genus, but too damaged for confident identification.

Family BELYTIDAE

Parts of a damaged specimen probably belonging to this family were found in the resin, but unfortunately they are not sufficient to indicate the genus.

Remarks

The conditions under which this resin was deposited were probably warm but moist.

Some species of *Eupines* and allied genera occur in the dry parts of the inland region, but the majority of them prefer the moist valleys and the wooded slopes of hills, often being found on, and in, decaying logs. The species of Scydmaenidae are mostly found in similar conditions. *Platycilibe* are definitely confined to moist decaying logs and the weevil would almost certainly live in a fairly moist place. And the same could be said of the Hymenoptera.